

Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Friday May 20, 1977

CG NIDC 77-117C

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

State Dept. review completed

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Friday May 20, 1977.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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USSR: Human Rights Counterattack

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[] With the approach of next month's preparatory review conference on European security and cooperation in Belgrade, the USSR's continuing attempts to deflect Western criticism of its record on human rights may become more institutionalized and increasingly aggressive. The US embassy has learned that plans are afoot to organize human rights committees in the USSR, presumably to monitor and publicize alleged human rights violations in the US and other foreign countries.

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[] A senior member of the Institute for the USA and Canada told a US embassy counselor on Tuesday that in contrast to the official, congressional-executive committee formed in the US, the planned Soviet committees would be unofficial, "popular" bodies ostensibly with no ties to the government.

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[] The Soviet official did not say how many committees would be set up, but noted that a committee for the US was among those to be organized. He professed to have no further details and did not say how he had learned of these plans, but his position would clearly give him access to information of this kind.

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[] The Soviets have recently made it unmistakably clear that if the Belgrade meeting develops into a polemical confrontation on human rights, Moscow and its allies will be prepared to take on the West. Formation of the planned committees would provide the Soviets additional mechanism for propagandizing alleged violations of human rights in Western countries that participated in the Helsinki meetings and in others whom the Soviets view as Western clients. The "unofficial" status of the committees would also allow the Soviet government to disclaim responsibility for any commentary they might make.

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[] Soviet media have been projecting an image of confidence that the Belgrade gathering will be positive and will not dwell "excessively" on the human rights aspects of the Helsinki accord. Nevertheless, repeated warnings that Moscow is ready to meet any Western challenge head on--and leaks to the West about some of the ways this might be done--indicate both the depth of Soviet concern over the Belgrade meeting and the extent of Soviet preparations.

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[] A senior Foreign Ministry official reiterated to a US diplomat on Monday that the Soviets would be "ready in Belgrade for any attack" from the West. He specifically mentioned that Moscow could cite the status of black Americans, Puerto Ricans, and such issues as unemployment.

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[] If the human rights committees are actually formed in the USSR, they would also, inevitably, underscore the regime's recent success in curbing the activities of the group organized by dissidents to monitor Soviet compliance with the human rights provisions of the Helsinki agreement. []

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POLAND: Warsaw Memorial Mass

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[] A memorial mass is scheduled for today in Warsaw for student human rights activist Stanislaw Pyjas, who was allegedly murdered by police in Krakow on May 7. A large turnout would increase the possibility of violence.

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[] At times during the past nine months the universities in Warsaw have been active centers of dissidence, and the regime has been worried that violent outbursts could develop. At present, however, the US embassy does not note any exceptional degree of tension among Warsaw students.

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[] The embassy also believes that there is little likelihood of serious trouble within the next few days. Although the police could be forced to use coercive measures if faced with open demonstrations, security services are likely to be under strict orders to minimize chances for a sharp confrontation with the students and others.

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[] There were no untoward incidents during the demonstrations that followed memorial services earlier this week in Krakow or Lodz, and the US consulate in Krakow reports that there have been no further demonstrations in that city.

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[] According to press reports, members of the Workers Defense League will meet today with the prosecutor general to urge that seven of the league's leaders now under detention be released. The league has tried to pressure the regime by warning of "dire events" if they are not set free.

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25X1 [REDACTED] The regime, however, appears intent on keeping the seven out of action so that they cannot give leadership to the students. At least one Warsaw daily has taken a tougher line, implying that the league's activities are treasonous and that they are directed from outside the country. [REDACTED]

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CHILE: Repression

25X1 [REDACTED] Reports of gross violations of human rights in Chile, which had nearly ceased this year, are again on the rise. [REDACTED]

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25X1 [REDACTED] This backsliding comes at a particularly bad time for Chile, since a number of West European governments were beginning to acknowledge improvement in the Chilean human rights situation. Critics will now have additional ammunition for their attacks on the Chilean regime and their appeals to boycott it.

25X1 [REDACTED] Chile's National Intelligence Directorate is apparently behind the recent upsurge in torture, illegal detentions, and unexplained "disappearances." The Directorate's chief, Colonel Manuel Contreras, is a close confidant of Pinochet, who acclaimed the organization in a recent press interview for its "decisive role" in bringing extremism under control. Contreras answers directly to the President, and it is unlikely that he would act without the knowledge and approval of his superior.

25X1 [REDACTED] Most of the targets now appear to be socialists, but some communists and Christian Democrats are also victims. A campaign against Communist Party leaders last year largely immobilized that organization, and the security services are apparently turning to other opponents. [REDACTED]

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25X1 [REDACTED] The Directorate's detention facility at Cuatro Alamos is said to be in operation again. This site was largely abandoned after a decree in January 1976 empowered the Supreme Court

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president and the interior minister to inspect-without prior notice-areas suspected of being used for maltreatment. Neither official appears to have exercised this authority since last year.

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[redacted] Pinochet stated this week that the emergency measures in effect under the state of siege will be enforced as long as necessary "to repress drastically any attempt that might become a threat to internal security or domestic peace." Following his recent crackdown on former president Frei's Christian Democratic Party and on outspoken democratic labor leaders, Pinochet has made clear that he will move harshly against anyone who runs afoul of his government.

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[redacted] The President may believe that the cutoff in US aid has made human rights a dead issue in Chile and that Washington has no further leverage against his regime. He may also be buoyed by the gradual improvement in the country's economic situation. In any case, reports of increased repression are sure to leak out, refueling the human rights controversy.

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GHANA: Growing Tensions

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[REDACTED] //The situation in Ghana is tense, and coup rumors are rampant in the wake of last week's anti-government student demonstrations and a brief takeover early this week of the government radio station by a disgruntled soldier.//

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[REDACTED] //The soldier unsuccessfully sought to announce the "overthrow" of the regime in hopes of rallying widespread support for a coup to restore civilian rule. Ghana's increasingly unpopular junta leader, General Acheampong, is extremely nervous over his eroding support and suspects that many of his officers are plotting against him.

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[REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED] //Dissatisfaction is spreading within both
the military and the civilian population over Acheampong's
failure to alleviate severe food shortages, inflation, and other
chronic economic problems. [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED] //Opposition to Acheampong reportedly is
rife even in his own tribal region. Farmers there apparently
are said to be withholding food from markets. There are indica-
tions that heretofore disparate military and civilian factions
are seeking to ally.//

25X1 [REDACTED] Acheampong appears to be taking a somewhat more con-
ciliatory tack towards students after closing Ghana's univer-
sities and threatening to order those involved in recent demon-
strations to work on farms. The government announced yesterday
that uninvolved students will be permitted to return to campuses
for final exams.

[REDACTED]

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